

# PROPOSALS

FOR PRINTING

A

## General History of England

From the Flood, according to the best *Traditional Account*, to *Julius Caesar*, and from thence out of the most *Ancient Records, Manuscripts* and *Historians*, down to the Reign of Their Present Majesties

King *WILLIAM* and Queen *MARY*,

Including the Lives of the Kings, and most Eminent Persons both in *Church* and *State*. Written by *JAMES TYRRELL* of *Okely* in the County of *Bucks*, Esquire, Author of *Bibliotheca Politica*.

THE Complaint made by Sir *William Temple* in his late Introduction to the *History* of England, that we have not hitherto any good and approved *General History* of England, is well known to be no Novelty amongst those who converse with Learned Men or Books: And the same Complaint is to be found in the Prologue to *Walsingham's History*. This, together with Sir *William Temple's* judicious Reflection, viz. "That as it is a shame to be Ignorant in the Affairs of our own Country, so 'tis hardly worth the Time or Pains (and we shall add Expence) to be informed, since for that end a Man must read over a Library, rather than a Book" does unanswerably evince the Necessity of such an Undertaking.

The Books which we intend to consult for this great Work, are those mentioned by Sir *William Temple* in his Introduction, and the *Works* which he was pleas'd to send us, with all others of our Own and Foreign Historians of Reputation (both *Latin* and *English*) who treat of our Affairs, as mixt with their own.

We have moreover some *Manuscripts* already sent us, which will be of extraordinary Use in the prosecution of this Noble Design, and are assur'd of more from Persons of Eminent Quality, besides the Helps we promise our selves from the Correspondence that we have settl'd with divers Learned Men.

And that nothing may be wanting to compleat this Work, we do hereby invite all Ingenious and Learned Persons, and true Lovers of their Country, to communicate to us any *Manuscripts, Memoirs, or Corrections* which they have made in the *Histories* of England already publish'd, and we do assure them that they shall be carefully perus'd, and made use off for the Improvement of the Work, and faithfully and gratefully restor'd.

And for the further satisfaction of the Publick, we think fit to inform them, that the Learned Gentleman who has undertaken this Province, will take care that all Defects of former Authors be supplied, that nothing unworthy of the Noble Title of *History* be insert'd, and that all manner of Partiality and Passion be avoided, so as not only our History, but the Constitution of our Government shall be better understood by this Work, than by any other yet Extant.

We conceive the great Authority of Sir *William Temple*, sufficient to convince any Man of the Great Usefulness of such an Undertaking; and therefore shall add, as a further Argument, that the Scarcity of several of the Authors whom we design to Consult, is such, that they are not to be purchas'd with Money, but reserv'd as Jewels of great Value by those who possess them, which of it self is enough to demonstrate the Advantage of this Design, above any other of this Nature, by which the Reader may have a better View of our History and Constitution, the Prerogatives of the King, and the Rights and Liberties of the People, than he can have at present, though he should put himself to the Expence of Buying, and fatigue of Reading all our Histories now Extant.

The Patterns which we propose for our Method are the Celebrated Historians, *Thucydides*, *Meyeray* and *Buchanan*, and we design to take in the History of the Church in conjunction

A

with

APB 7. R 3464 674p  
with that of the *State*, and by way of *Corallary* at the end of each *Century*, to take notice of the *Variations* and *Changes* in both.

We think it needless to insist any further on the *Nature of our Undertaking*, but hope, that as the bare *Description* of our *Country*, viz. *Camden's Britannia*, has deservedly found so much encouragement, the *General History* of the same shall not meet with less; for we have no reason to think that *Englishmen* have any cause to be ashamed of their *Ancestors*, or to put a less Value upon the knowledge of the Noble *Archivements* of their *Fore-Fathers*, and the *Laws*, *Religion* and *Constitutions* by which they liv'd, than that of the *Country* in which they did inhabit.

### Additional PROPOSALS.

HAVING procur'd so Able a Hand as that of *James Tyrrel*, Esquire, Author of *Poeticea Politica* to undertake this great Work, (in whose *Comendation* it will be needless to say any thing, he being sufficiently known to understand the *English History and Constitution*) we think we have little more to add to what hath been already said in the aforesaid *Proposals*, then that the said Gentleman intends (God willing) to finish the *First Part* of this Work, (containing the *History of England, from the Flood to William the Conqueror*) within Six Months from *January* next ensuing; (he having long since prepared *Materials* for this Great Work.) in which he designs to Collect from the most *Ancient Records, Manuscripts and Historians*, not only the *Civil*, but also the *Ecclesiastical History* of this Kingdom; as that of the *Bishopricks*, and Principal *Monasteries*, founded by the *English Saxon Kings* and others, with the *Successions* of all the chief *Bishops*, and Names of the most Famous *Writers*, who flourish'd in those Times; together with the *Fundamental Laws and Constitutions* of the *Saxon Government*, being the Basis of our Present Establishment. *A Work that never yet hath been performed by any other.*

### PROPOSALS.

I. That this Work will contain, as near as we can Judge, about *Four Hundred Sheets*, Printed in *Folio* with the same Letter, as the *Additional Proposals*, and on Paper of the same Goodness.

II. For the Encouragement of those that Subscribe, it is propos'd at 40 s. per Book in Quires, 15 s. to be paid in Hand, and 25 s. at Delivery. And if it Happens to make above 400 Sheets, the Subscribers shall have it, paying only 1 d. for every such additional Sheet.

III. For a further Encouragement to those that promote it, any Gentleman who will Subscribe for Six Books shall have a Seventh *Gratis*; which will reduce the 400 Sheets to 14 s. 3½ d. per Book in Quires, which considering the vast Expence, in carrying on and compleating so great a Work, and the Excessive dearness of Paper, cannot but be thought very Reasonable.

IV. To those that do not subscribe, the said 400 Sheets shall not be Sold under 45 s. in Quires.

V. All Gentlemen who Subscribe, shall have their Names and Titles, &c. (if permitted) annexed when the whole is compleated.

VI. The first Part shall be ready to be Deliver'd to Subscribers within Six Months, and the rest, with all possible Expedition.

VII. Those who expect the Benefit of these Proposals, are desired to make their first Payments, with what speed they can, to any of the Undertakers, who will give a Receipt for the same.

The UNDERTAKERS are,

HENRY RHODES at the *Star* in *Fleet-street*.

JOHN DUNTON at the *Raven* in *Jewen-street*.

JOHN SALUSBURY at the *Rising-Sun* in *Cornhill*.

JOHN HARRIS at the *Harrow* in the *Poultry*, Where PROPOSALS are to be had, and also of most Booksellers in *London* and the *Country*.